



News Release

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Vaccines to protect infants and young children the focus of public event *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention invites local views on immunization schedule*

OLYMPIA — The national discussion on adding new recommendations to the immunization schedule for children under two is coming to the Puget Sound area. Parents, health care providers, health plans, and others are invited to give input at a July 12 meeting hosted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“Parents, providers, health plans and public health all play an important role in getting kids immunized on time,” said State Health Officer Maxine Hayes, a pediatrician. “We hope they will lend their voice to this conversation about keeping kids healthy.”

The event is one of four meetings around the country CDC will host to find ways to include public input in the process that sets the recommended childhood vaccine schedule. The meeting will focus on getting public views and opinions on the factors that should be considered when deciding if and how vaccines should be added to the childhood vaccine series. For example, new vaccines can protect infants and very young children from relatively rare, but often very serious, types of disease — like meningitis and bloodstream infections.

“This meeting provides an opportunity for people from our area to help inform national vaccine policy development,” said Dr. Jeff Duchin, Chief, Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Immunization Section for Public Health — Seattle & King County, and member of the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. “I encourage interested persons, especially parents of young children, to participate.”

The meeting is Tuesday July 12, 2011 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Shoreline Conference Center.

People who want to attend must pre-register and plan to stay for the entire meeting. Attendance at the meeting is limited to about 100 people. Participants may be eligible for a \$75 stipend.

Parents or guardians with childcare expenses may qualify for an additional \$75. [Register online](#) (<http://keystone.org/registration/seattle>), or by calling 1-866-276-7083.

Find more information on [childhood immunizations](#) at (www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize).

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